



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL
NEWS RELEASE**

Acting Consumer Counsel Richard E. Sobolewski

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ACTING CONSUMER COUNSEL RICHARD E. SOBOLEWSKI ANNOUNCES
APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT DECREASING VALLEY WATER SYSTEMS'
REQUESTED RATE INCREASE BY OVER 40%**

*Settlement Between OCC, Valley Water Systems, Inc., and the Town of Plainville Resolves
Requested Water Rate Increase*

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (September 22, 2021) – Acting Consumer Counsel Richard E. Sobolewski announced today that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) has formally approved a negotiated [settlement](#) between the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC), Valley Water Systems, Inc. (Valley Water), and the Town of Plainville that resolves Valley Water’s recent rate application which requested a 35.73% rate increase. The settlement saves Valley Water customers approximately \$580,131 while ensuring that Valley Water retains sufficient revenues to maintain its water system.

“The approval of this settlement guarantees that Valley Water ratepayers will experience a diminished rate impact compared to the original requested rate increase,” said Acting Consumer Counsel Sobolewski. “Meanwhile, Valley Water will have the revenue necessary to maintain its water system and make necessary improvements to the benefit of customers. I thank Valley Water and the Town of Plainville for their work on this settlement as well as PURA for its review and approval of it.”

Valley Water initially filed for a rate increase in November 2020, seeking an increase in revenues of \$1,230,560, or approximately 35.73% over current rates, to be effective June 2021. Under the terms of the settlement, Valley Water’s approved revenues are \$736,911, or approximately 21.4% over current rates. The terms of the settlement defer implementation of new rates by over six months. Valley Water’s previous rate case was in 2010.

Valley Water serves over approximately 6,000 customer accounts in the greater Plainville area. Under the terms of the settlement, new rates will take effect on January 1, 2022 or the first month after PURA’s approval a proposed merger between Valley Water and Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut currently being considered in PURA Docket No. [21-04-23](#).

A copy of the PURA Decision and approved settlement may be accessed [here](#).

Acting Consumer Counsel Sobolewski thanked Staff Attorney Andrew W. Minikowski and Utilities Examiners Dave Thompson and Tyra A. Peluso for their assistance in this matter.

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The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is the State of Connecticut's advocate for consumers on issues relating to electricity, natural gas, water, and telecommunications. For more information, visit www.ct.gov/occ.